

Good morning, Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and Distinguished Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

My name is Andrew Matthews, and I am the President of the Connecticut State Police Union and a Sergeant within the Connecticut State Police. As the Union President, I represent approximately 1,138 State Troopers, Sergeants and Master Sergeants. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today. I am here to speak **in FAVOR** of:

PROPOSED BILL NO. HB05340

AN ACT RENAMING THE STATE POLICE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY AS THE "DR. HENRY C. LEE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY".

Dr. Lee has been associated with the Connecticut State Forensic Laboratory since 1979. Serving as Chief Criminalist, Director and Chief Emeritus of the Laboratory, and Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Dr. Lee has provided the citizens of the State of Connecticut with leadership, innovation and a greater quality of life.

From 1998 - 2000, Dr. Lee served the State of Connecticut as the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. It was through his efforts that the Department of Public Safety – State Police now has a statutory mandate of 1248 Troopers. He ensured the safety of the public and our Troopers by acquiring our 800 MHz Motorola radio system and has received substantial funding for our agency as well as the Forensic Laboratory.

As one of the world's foremost forensic scientists, Dr. Lee has led the Forensic Laboratory in solving some of the state's most high profile and heinous crimes. During his tenure, he has established the Forensic Science Laboratory's reputation as a leader in research and state-of-the-art equipment. Dr. Lee has also unified the Laboratory staff with State and Local law enforcement on crime scenes and in fighting crime overall. In addition, he developed a unique model for the education and training of law enforcement officers in the State of Connecticut.

In closing, the accomplishments and sacrifices made by Dr. Henry Lee deserve to be recognized by the State of Connecticut and preserved in a way that others will remember him into the future.

Based on the foregoing, **we respectfully request this Committee to pass this legislation.**